

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
ASHEVILLE DIVISION**

**CIVIL CASE NO. 1:15-cv-249-GCM**

**Gary L. Steiert** )  
                    **Plaintiff,** )  
                                    ) )  
                    **v.** )  
                                    ) )  
**Carolyn W. Colvin,** )  
**Acting Commissioner of Social Security,** )  
                    **Defendant.** )

**ORDER**

**THIS MATTER IS BEFORE THE COURT** on the *Consent Motion for Entry of Order Accepting the Motion for Attorney's Fees Under EAJA* filed on November 9, 2016. The parties agree in this case that Plaintiff should be awarded an attorney's fee under the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA"), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), in the amount of \$5,941.54.

**IT IS ORDERED** that the *Consent Motion for Attorney's Fees Under EAJA* is **GRANTED**, to the extent that the Court will award attorney fees in the amount of \$5,941.54 and that pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586 (U.S. 2010), 130 S.Ct. 2521 (2010), the fee award will first be subject to offset of any debt Plaintiff may owe to the United States. The Commissioner will determine whether Plaintiff owes a debt to the United States. If so, the debt will be satisfied first, and if any funds remain, they will be made payable to Plaintiff and mailed to Plaintiff's counsel. If the United States Department of the Treasury reports to the Commissioner that the Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, the government will exercise its discretion and honor an assignment of EAJA fees, and pay the awarded fees directly to Plaintiff's counsel. No additional petition pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d) shall be filed.

EAJA allows that fees and expenses are to be paid by the defendant agency; thus the attorney's fees awarded to Plaintiff shall be paid by the Social Security Administration.

Signed: November 10, 2016



Graham C. Mullen  
United States District Judge

